

BO;LAB

PROJECT
DESCRIPTION
+
DIPLOMA
PROGRAM

19.06.2020

ELISABETH BRANDTZÆG

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Where and why

Vibrandsøy is an island that is a part of Haugesund, a south western city in Norway. The island appears like a green, oblong meadow garden in the strait between Haugesund and Karmøy.

Haugesund is the city where I grew up. My parents have been living just across the strait from Vibrandsøy since 2009. While writing a building history essay from 2015 to 2017, I got an eye opener for this island, which is a mystery for most people from Haugesund because it is so unavailable.

The intense green grass on the island lays like a planket out to the sea plain, and the boat houses dorns the entry to the port city. As beautiful as they look, they do not function for anything as they are today. They are just empty shells, renovated for millions of Norwegian kroner. Naturally, this fires my enthusiasm as

an architect; to think sustainable and to activate what's just standing there.

In the middle 1900's there were up to 80 habitants living on the island - today there are only 5. Before, the people living there were also working there - today they work other places, since the island doesn't offer work opportunities. Today the site has some boat houses - in which three of them have been renovated by the municipality over the last ten years. There are also about eight cabins, a barn, a big green plain that used to be for agriculture, a closed school building, a guest house, an old villa, two houses, an old closed mechanical workshop and a big white hall. Around in the landscape there are also numerous foundations from houses and boat houses standing there before.

>>>

My project takes the history of Vibrandsøy into account. When one arrives on the island, it's like a travel back in time. The development in architecture stopped here in the middle 1900, and the municipality has an eagerness to take care of these historical buildings and the cultural heritage in general - which result in an architectural stop.

I want my project to be perceived from the average Haugesund inhabitant, as well as the city government. As the municipality does not want changes on the island - only building up what are there and have been - someone needs to show them the alternative that does not destroy the singularity of the island. The project will also encourage the average Haugesund people to make green choices in life.

WHAT

My project is a master vision for Vibrandsøy. The masterplan includes activating the island and create a community, similar to how it was a hundred years ago. My project will result in a society that offers an alternative way of living than in the city. The idea of this island becoming a «showcase» and inspiration for greener living is central, especially given the placement along and in proximity to the city.

This will be a society where people can live more simple - in micro houses - as long as they contribute to the community by working there. In other words, the community will be circular in two aspects; it is run by itself - partly self-sufficient with food (vegetables from the cropland) and electricity, and also the people living there circulates, as people live at Vibrandsøy as long as they have work on the island.

HOW

Understanding and familiarize the history of a site and the use of the buildings through times is important to bear in mind as I will make changes in the architectural structure. With one foot in the past and one in the future, the project will evolve over time.

To bring new life to the island, I propose to add:

- a sauna that is embedded into the landscape, by an old bathing spot
- micro houses that are placed both in existing foundations in the landscape, as well as inside existing boat houses, that today are just empty shells with no program
- a new function to the big white hall; a greenhouse and orangerie with tropical plants.

These three proposals are only feasibility studies that substantiates activating different situations on the island. They are necessarily not the "perfect" solution.

The project takes circular economy as its foundation; using materials and elements

from other/older buildings in the new structures on the island. (An example of how to do this practice is to use the corrugated iron boards from the big white hall as facade and roof for the micro houses, or reuse wooden panel from a demolished building/material bank as wood shingles for micro house facade.)

In the end, the project is connected to the city in a different way than just through the route boat. The life on the island is vibrant and appears in the city - through an adapter, placed in the core of the city, that informs the Haugesund people what happens at Vibrandsøy at any time. This adapter also function as a stall for sale of vegetables or other things from Vibrandsøy.

As time goes by, the different way of living and the green choices that have been made will spring out from Vibrandsøy and spread out to the city - like a matter or a micro organism that takes place in people's life and habits. Adapters in different shapes and with different functions will gradually be seen in for example parks, private yards or parking lots.

BO;LAB

An on-going
master vision
on new,
alternative
ways of living
in a cultural
landscape.
A living lab
preparing for
an alternative
future.

DIPLOMA PROGRAM

SPRING TERM 2020
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”A SIMPLE LIFE
IS A GOOD LIFE

HENRY DAVID THOREAU,
WALDEN (1854)

W H E R E ?

Vibrandsøy is the site. The island is a part of Haugesund, a west Norwegian city. It has no direct connection to the mainland or any of the other islands of the city. One can only get over by boat. The northern part of the island is regulated for nature conservation and outdoor. The whole island appears like a *garden of the city* - like a garden outside of a house.

The first man to live at Vibrandsøy found his way there

in the middle 1600. The buildings that are there today were built in the middle 1800's and early 1900's, as well as some in the 1970's. Some of the buildings have been restored over the last years by the municipality and the county council, but they are only shells with no program inside.

Through the history the greenery has been a pasture, and parts of it has been used for farming. The ancestors of the shipowner family Knudsen, who at that- time owned large parts of the island, had cows, oxes and sheep grazing freely on the island. When summer came, the cows went on a "vacation" further north in the region.

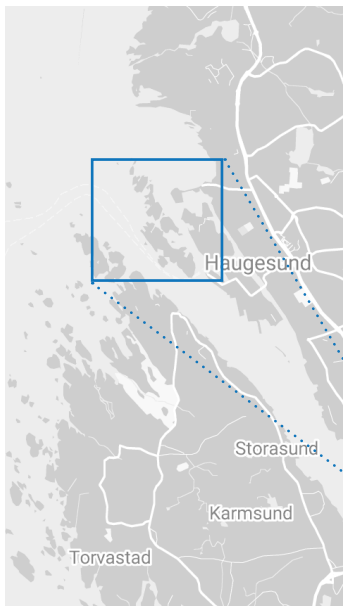
The buildings have mainly been used to operate shipping of salted and iced herring - to other parts of the world.

Today, there are 5 permanent residents on the island. The people living there have taken the responsibility of restoring the houses when buying them. As mentioned, the municipality and the county council has also restored three of the boat houses over the last ten years.

Haugesund is my hometown. My parents live just across the strait for Vibrandsøy, and I have, from the day we moved

there, been curious about this island, as it looks so rural and a "travel back in time". Therefore, I chose to write the building history task about it in 2015-2017.

With this building history in my luggage, I have a basic and valuable knowledge about the site, that is a good foundation for my work with the diploma.





2016



1935



2018



1935

W H A T ?

Facilitate to live different, in what ever way that is. Simple living. Out of stress. In the heart of nature, but close to the city. Live the *bucolic* life.

Redefining an old concept of living; harvesting one's own food and take care of the animals on the pasture.

I want to project leaseholder cabins/*allotments*/dorms, that can be rent temporary for 2-3 months - or permanent for 1-2 years or more. Can be used as

a residential or a hut. The householder has the responsibility to sow in soil and harvest, maintain the cultivated land, the sheep and other animals and the greenery on the island.

The project need to consider the issue of the climate change. Also the infra-structure between the island and the city should be considered; how to connect these two different realities.

B U C O L I C

bu·col·ic | \ byü-'kä-lik

adjective: bucolic

*relating to the pleasant
aspects of the countryside
and country life.*

*1 : of or relating to
shepherds or*

herdsmen : PASTORAL

*2a : relating to or typical
of rural life
b : IDYLLIC*

A L L O T M E N T

al·lot·ment |

noun: allotment

a community garden.

a plot of land made available for individual, non-commercial gardening or growing food plants.

*1 : something that is allotted
-an allotment of time
especially, chiefly British :
a plot of land let to an
individual for cultivation*

W H O ?

- Young students that move to Vibrandsøy for the summer, to develop a new product - entrepreneurial activities - for a company. Workshop.

- People drifting a café at Vibrandsøy.

- People visiting the island for hiking and eating waffles at a café.

- People arriving the island by kayak. (The island is frequently used by the kayaking club in Haugesund today)

- Artists renting a dorm to work with art on an inspirational place.

- A company renting a dorm for half a year to develop a concept.

- Families arriving in private boats, staying a week in the summer.

- Youths staying overnight in tents and hammocks, grilling hotdogs on the beach.

- People fishing on the dock.

- An artist in Haugesund has a dream of inviting all people of Haugesund to a Kite Festival at Vibrandsøy. For all ages.

+++



ARRIVING BY BOAT



LIVING IN THE NATURE



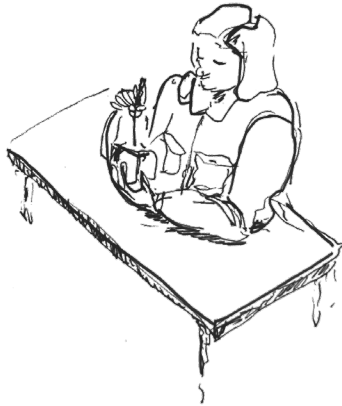
HARVESTING VEGETABLES



FISHING ON THE DOCK



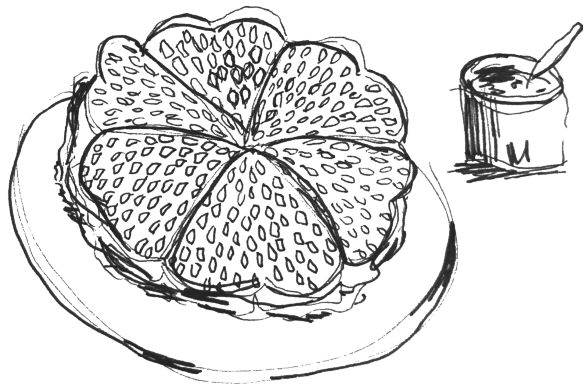
KAYAKING AROUND THE ISLAND



ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES



DOING ART



FRESHLY MADE WAFFLES ON SUNDAYS

”SIMPLE LIVING

From the beginning of the human age and to this day, our living conditions have changed. At the very start, we hunted our own food and lived in caves. Our humanity has lived through an ice age, and still managed to stay alive. We were nourished by what we had around us - vegetables, fruits and herbs. To keep us healthy, we made herbal medicine - that also applies to today. Today, things are really different. Our consumption is

blameworthy, and many take for granted what we have around us. We have filled-up-stores with everything you can imagine of food and clothes and all other things. But still, there have been people in the modern times that have chosen to live simple. To live the similar way people did in the history of our humanity. Through this essay, I will try to understand why people choose simple living. What is their drive to just do it?

Paragraph from my social science essay: *Simple Living*

W H Y ?

Most people from Haugesund have never been at

Vibrandsøy, even though it is only a stone's throw away. Some know it's there, but has no knowledge of how it actually is to be there. When you arrive at Vibrandsøy, it is like you enter an island far, far away from home. Like a travel back in time. A place where the nature is wild and free.

With my diploma I want to make the island more accessible, without destroying the singularity that it has. If adding

new structures to the site, it should leave as little footprints as possible.

I have personal interests in this topic; improving the environment as much as I can. I also have interest in the cultural heritage in Haugesund, which has a super-committed urban antiquarian who knows how to preserve buildings with historical value. The project will promote use and not *consumption*. Be *sustainable*. Take care of the cultural heritage that stands strong on the island today.

CONSUMPTION

con·sump·tion |
noun: consumption

*1 : the act or process of
consuming
consumption of food
consumption of resources*
*2 : use of something
-the jet's high
consumption of fuel
-the consumption
of electricity*

S U S T A I N A B L E

sus·tain·able |

adjective: sustainable

1: capable of being sustained

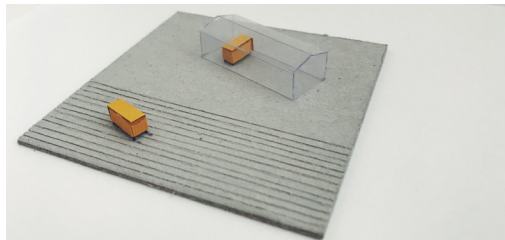
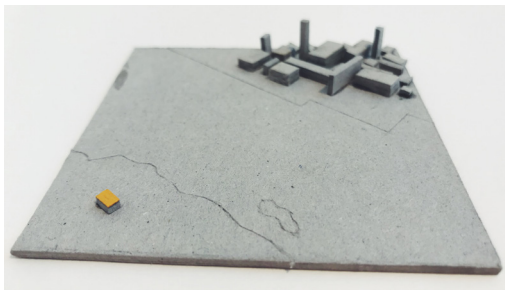
*2a : of, relating to, or being a method of
harvesting or using a resource so that the
resource is not depleted or permanently
damaged*

sustainable techniques

sustainable agriculture

*b : of or relating to a lifestyle involving the
use of sustainable methods
sustainable society*

CONCEPT MODEL



JAN

WEEK 2: SEMESTER START

WEEK 3: SOCIAL SCIENCE ESSAY

WEEK 4: DEADLINE SOCIAL
SCIENCE+TUTORIAL W/SVERRE

WEEK 5: ESSAY PRESENTATION

FEB

WEEK 6: DEADLINE PRO-
GRAM DESCRIPTION - DELIVERY!

WEEK 7: TUTORIAL W/ SVERRE

WEEK 8: STUDY TRIP TO
VIBRANT SØY.
INSPECTION/ FIELDWORK.

WEEK 9: FIELDWORK +
TUTORIAL WITH SVERRE.

CALENDAR

MAR

WEEK 10: **DESIGN START**

WEEK 12: TUTORIAL W/ SVERRE

APR

WEEK 14: TUTORIAL W/ SVERRE

WEEK 16: TUTORIAL W/ SVERRE

WEEK 17: PRODUCTION PERIOD START.

CALENDAR

MAY

WEEK 19: TUTORIAL W/ SVERRE

WEEK 20: EXTERNAL REVIEW

WEEK 21: LAST FIX
BEFORE EXHIBITION PERIOD

JUN

WEEK 23 - 26: EXHIBITION PERIOD START

WEEK 26/27: EXAM (27.28.29/07)

CALENDAR



CURRICULUM VITAE

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in Haugesund

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E D U C A T I O N

Master in Architecture,
Bergen School of
Architecture
2018 - 2020

Exchange to UIC, Universi-
tat Internacional de
Catalunya, Barcelona
Fall 2018

Bachelor in Architecture,
Bergen School of
Architecture
2015-2018

Courses:

- **Complex Context** (Fall 2019). Understand the chosen site in the urban context of Bergen. Study trip to Lisbon.
- **Open Space** (Spring 2019) Inclusive space, universal design. Building a ramp at the mezzanine at school. Writing a book around the course topic. The book got a grant from Universell and will be published urgently. Study trip to Copenhagen.

Subjects:

- **Design Studio III.** Design course where the site is the old town of Barcelona. Context understanding.
- **Computational Design I.** Learning the 3D-program Rhino.
- **English II.** Learning how to present architecture project properly.
- **History of Art and Architecture I**

One year study. Graphic
Design, Norges Kreative
Høyskole
2014-2015

One year folkehøgskole.
Multisport/
Friluftsliv, Valdres Folke-
høgskole
2013-2014

WORK EXPERIENCE

Artist at GalleriNora. Paiting.
2019 -

Part-time employee at Life Brandtzæg
Helsekost, ecologic/organic shop
2009 -

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Exhibited art at the opening ceremony of
Klimafestivalen in Bergen, January 2020

Exhibited art at Qvale Galleri in Oslo for
GalleriNora, December 2019

Exhibited art at GalleriNora's art exhibiti-
on during Sildajazzen, August 2019

LITTERATURE

Negotiating Narratives: Recent Approaches in Consumer Studies

by Brittany Liverant

A Consumers' Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America

by Lizabeth Cohen

Fra slektsgård til oljeplattform

by Thomas Hylland Eriksen